

DWIGHT'S AMERICAN MAGAZINE, AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

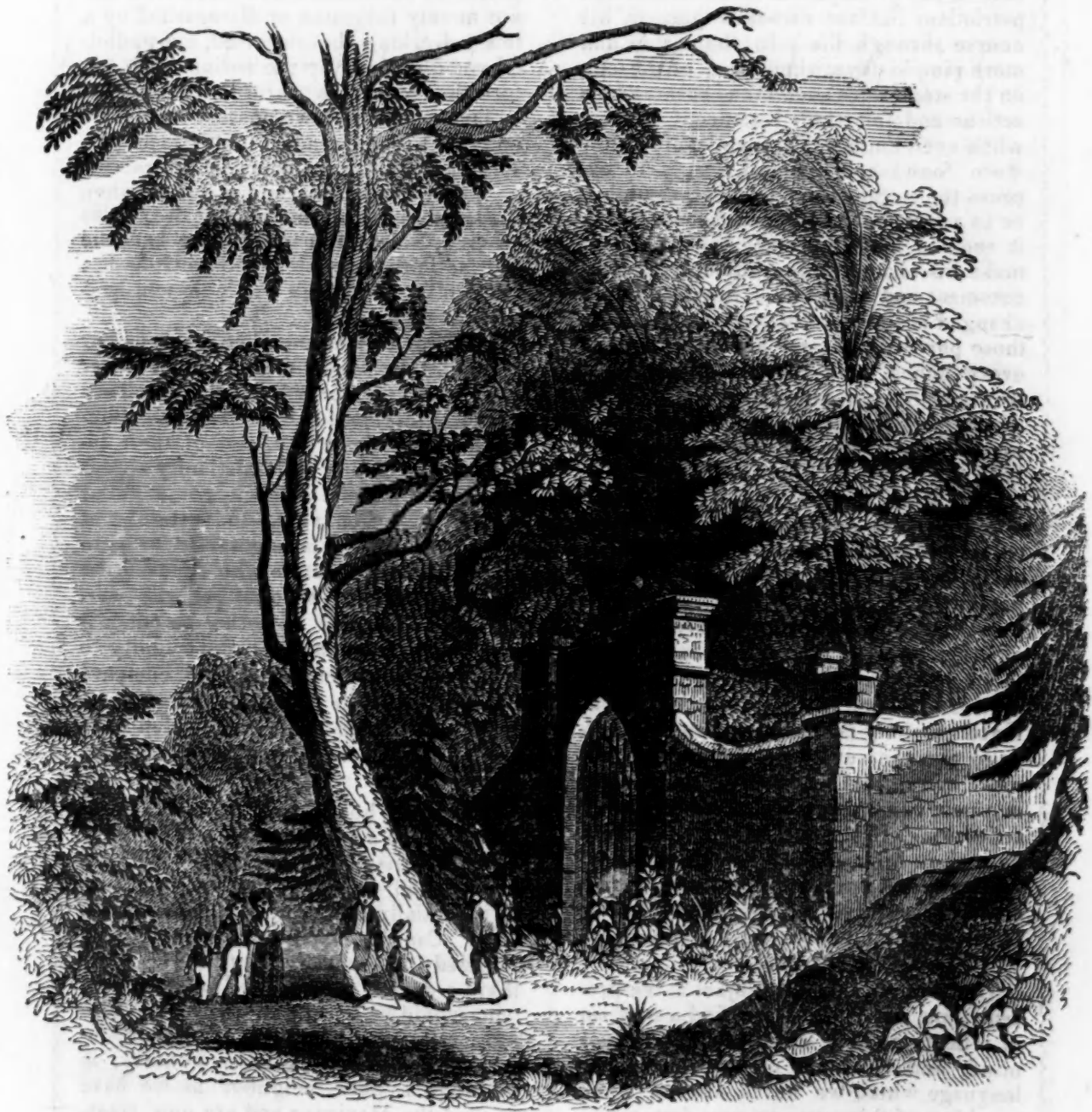
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THE TOMB OF WASHINGTON.

This simple scene should be often placed before the eyes of each of us, and it should be impressed upon our memories, and intimately and inseparably associated with clear views of the character of our great, departed friend, and a deep and heartfelt admiration of his virtues. In our days it is peculiarly important, to train up the young with jealous care in the principles of that disinterested patriotism which directed him in his course through life. In the earlier and more simple days, when many of the men on the stage were such as had observed his actions and felt their beneficent effects; when even among his enemies, few, few were found bold enough openly to express their opposition to his principles, or to avow motives which he abhorred, it seemed less important than now, to make his character the subject of daily comment and eulogium. But ah! How changed is the state of our country since those purer days; and how deeply must every honest man feel the melancholy truth, who now approaches the tomb which encloses the dust of the Father of his country! For ourselves, who have been familiar with the scene, who have visited Mount Vernon in its former, and in its present condition, who have not only stood before the simple front of the tomb so accurately represented on the preceding page, but so long ago as the year 1817, made a solitary journey to visit a spot so revered, and spent an hour in silent contemplation before the humble mound in which the remains of Washington so long reposed, we can emphatically say, that every recollection of the place and of him who has made it dear, is a new cause of painful and tormenting reflection. His name has been vilified by men in high office: but the path of rectitude and honesty, as well as of reason and safety, which he so plainly pointed out, and so strongly recommended, is now by many abandoned.

On recurring to this subject at the present time, we confess we find a new set of reflections and feelings rising in our mind, and we have disposition to use language which we never uttered when speaking of this spot on any former occasion. There have been men in our country, who have endeavoured to depreciate the character of that man whom we were taught, from childhood, to regard with the highest veneration and love.

The indignation which such expressions as we have heard have raised in our mind we are unable fully to express: how then can we expect to do justice to our feelings, when we once more sit down to contemplate the Tomb of the Father of our country, and reflect that the example of his life, and the principles of our ancestors, as well as his affecting parting advice to our fathers and ourselves, are not merely forgotten or disregarded by a few individuals, but despised, contradicted and disgraced by the nation itself before the face of the world?

The voice which we possess is a feeble one, and to some readers it may seem presumptuous, ill-timed or useless to raise it on a subject like this, and at a time when thousands are shouting in opposite strains on every side. But to us there is some satisfaction in speaking, though it be but in a whisper, the deep and indignant sentiments of the heart.

If all our countrymen had been of our opinion, this shameful war would never have been commenced. If the Members of the U. States Congress had entertained the same views of it, and of their duty, which humanity and Christianity appear to us most plainly to teach, not a dollar would have been voted to sustain it at the outset; and it is impossible for us to see how those Senators who opposed the measures which brought on the war, could feel justified in voting to carry it on! They have now an opportunity to reflect on their conduct, and to compare any possible evils which they then apprehended, with the real ones which have since occurred, and such as may succeed them.

"National honor" is a term which has had much to do in bringing our country into this miserable attitude. National honor! And what is it? Can its nature be essentially different from personal honor? Can any imagine it to be really founded on opposite principles; or is there a decent man in the United States, who would be willing to hazard his reputation for Christian principle, for moderation, humanity or even honesty, in treating a poor neighbor as we have treated the Mexicans and are now treating them? Had Washington been at the head of the government in such circumstances, would this contest ever have existed? If he had been in command of an army, would he not have resigned his

commission, when called upon to make a war of invasion, in a cause which his conscience condemned? What is the reason that Gen. Taylor acted as Washington would not have acted? Why have our people not remonstrated against a war which they generally disapproved, and, by public measures, in all parts of the country, required our rulers to change their policy? We believe it to be the duty of every person to use all his influence, whether it be great or small, to stop the dangerous course which we are pursuing. For ourselves, we fear the judgments of God more than the objections or the scorn of men, especially such men as can invite our ardent but credulous youth to murder and be murdered in Mexico, or those who calmly read accounts, from day to day, of the slaughter of women while in the act of giving drink to wounded soldiers on the field of battle, the shutting up of mothers and children in Vera Cruz, and throwing in bombshells from a safe distance, with such "admirable science," as to make them fall through the roofs of private houses, explode in the cellars, and kill five or six families at once—"for the honor of that great race of Anglo Saxon blood," who boast of ancestors whom they do not see fit to imitate. What true descendants of the New England pilgrims, or of William Penn's colonists, or of the Huguenots of France, or of the Protestants of Holland can look, with equanimity, at the graves of three thousand defamed, but patriotic Mexicans, who fought for their country, as our ancestors did at Bunker Hill; endure to read the foul letter of instructions sent by Mr. Marcy, with its Bonapartean scheme of intrigue; or the disgraceful scene exhibited by General Scott at the Cathedral of Vera Cruz, kneeling before a Romish priest and altar, with a lighted candle in his hand?

Is there any harm in our saying that we are ashamed and shudder at the change, when we stand before the tomb of Washington with such scenes as these in our mind? Denunciations, like claps of thunder, seem to burst from the open bible.

We add the following brief description of Mount Vernon, from the Northern Traveller:

"Mount Vernon, the estate of the Washington family, is 9 miles south from Alexandria, and is remarkable as contain-

ing the tomb of Gen. Washington. The road is somewhat intricate, and has but few inhabitants; so that the stranger unless he goes in a steamboat, will need to make careful inquiries. The house stands on an eminence, looking down upon the Potomac. The buildings which project from each end, are deformities, which greatly mar the effect.

The key of the Bastille of Paris is hung up in the hall; and a miniature portrait of Washington, from an earthen pitcher, is preserved, which is considered by the family the best likeness of him ever made. A beautiful lawn, partly shaded by trees, extends from the front of the mansion to the verge of the precipice, which overhangs the Potomac, and affords a delightful view upon the river and a tract of hilly country above and below.

This is the place to which Washington retired after he had accomplished the independence of his country, and again when he had presided at the consolidation of the government; voluntarily resigning the stations he had consented to accept, and the power he had exercised only for the good of his country. To an American, this place is interesting, in a degree which no language can either heighten or describe. Whoever appreciates the value of private and social virtue, will rejoice to find it associated with the traits of a personage so distinguished and influential; the consistent politician will rejoice to reflect that the principles of natural freedom are not restricted to any portion of the world, or any part of the human race; while any one, who can duly estimate the extent of the blessings he has conferred on his country, and the influence of his actions on the happiness of the world, will wish that his history may ever be cherished, as a model of sincere and disinterested patriotism.

Washington's Tomb was formerly in a little grove of cedars a short distance southward from the house, and near the brow of the precipitous shore. It is now at a short distance from that spot, a new family tomb having been erected. The great man, who had rendered to his country the most important military and civil services she ever received, left his mortal remains to be deposited in this humble cemetery; and that country has never yet expressed its gratitude by erecting a monument to his memory."

Remarkable Anecdote of a Sparrow.

The common sparrow is a species of bird which commands the least attention, either for its plumage or its note; but after the perusal of the following anecdote, it may ever be looked upon with admiration, when we consider how useful were the services of one of them in the cause of charity and benevolence.

Madame Helvetius, the amiable consort of the celebrated French writer of that name, had a singular attachment to birds. At her country residence, at Auteuil, she had a large aviary, to which she devoted her attention, and in which she kept a vast number of birds of every description. Indeed she had made the feathered race so much her study, that she was perfectly acquainted with every species of them. It must not be inferred from this that Madame Helvetius was one of those beings, of whom there are many to be found, who devote that time and attention to objects of the brute creation, which ought to be bestowed upon the indigent of their fellow creatures. She was one of those whose hand and heart were ever open to the cries of misery and distress, and on whose head were often poured the blessings of those on which she had bestowed her liberality in the time of need. For her natural graces, the charms of her society, and her gentle and beneficent disposition, she acquired a celebrity which caused her to be universally admired among all classes of those who knew her.

It was her custom, in accordance with the manners of the circle in which she moved, to visit the metropolis for a few months in the year, and the time she generally repaired to Paris was in the month of January. In that rigorous winter of 1788, which will be remembered in France, both for its severity and long continuance, Madame Helvetius found enough to occupy her in assisting the unfortunate who resided around her, for whose sufferings her sympathizing heart felt most keenly. Her fondness for birds, likewise, caused her, notwithstanding the rigour of the cold, every morning to sweep away the snow from off a part of the terrace before her house, and with her own hand to feed the large flocks of sparrows which regularly repaired thither.

It was on one of these occasions, while

surrounded by a large number of her feathered visitors, that one of them flew upon her head, and afterward perched familiarly on her finger. As cold and hunger often create tameness in the most timid creatures, Madame Helvetius felt not so much surprise as pity for the poor little refugee; but after warming and reanimating it by the fire, and seeing that it still continued perched on her arm, and flapped its wings without the least fear, she doubted no longer that it was a private bird which had strayed from some house, and been attracted, like the others, by the grain thrown upon her terrace. It was not, however, her wish that he should pay for his familiarity by his liberty, and accordingly, opening the window, the bird, expanding his wings, was instantly out of sight. The next morning, at the same time, the sparrow again appeared, and after hovering for a short time in the air, alighted upon her shoulder. Madame Helvetius was now surprised to see that the bird carried suspended from its neck a little bag, and her curiosity being excited, she quickly opened it, and found a piece of paper folded very closely, on which were written several lines, headed by a couplet from a poem of Racine, with a slight alteration.

*"Aux petits oiseaux, tu donnes la pature,
Et ta bonté s'étend sur toute la nature."*

[To the little birds thou givest food,
And thy bounty extends over all nature.]

Underneath were a few words addressed to Madame Helvetius, indicating that a respectable family in her neighborhood were suffering from want, and appealing to her benevolence for assistance. Not being able to resist an appeal brought by so sweet a messenger, she flew immediately to her escritoire, and taking from it a check on her banker for 600 francs, put it into the little bag, and taking the bird out upon the terrace, let him fly.

As might be expected, this charitable lady was lost in wonder and admiration. The means that could have been adopted to make the bird direct his flight towards her, to perch upon her arm, and to choose her for the comforter of the unfortunate beings to whom she belonged, continually occupied her imagination. Several days passed away; Madame Helvetius thought incessantly of the singular occurrence. Sometimes, from the knowledge she had of the world, she fear-

ed she might have been made the subject of deception, knowing that among those whom we assist we often find some who abuse our confidence.

One morning, however, as she was engaged in feeding her birds, she again perceived the faithful sparrow, carrying at his neck the same little bag into which she had put the 600 francs. She concluded at first that she had returned for more; but what was her surprise at finding a second note, informing her that she had saved an industrious mechanic and a large family from starvation, and that the 600 francs would be returned as soon as the return of spring, and the work of their hands would enable them to acquit themselves of it. Madame Helvetius read this anonymous letter several times—and who can conceive the sweet emotions with which her heart was filled! She retained the interesting messenger for a short time: but, conceiving the anxiety with which its owner would wait its return, she hastened to render him his liberty, having first inclosed a note in the little bag, in which she expressed her pleasure at what she had done, and begged them to consider it as a gift. From this time the bird returned no more, although Madame Helvetius watched for him incessantly. The severe frost having at last ceased, and the snow given way to the rays of the sun, which, every day becoming stronger, announced that the spring was fast approaching.

On the 1st of May, Madame Helvetius set out for her mansion at Auteuil: there, while occupied in attending to her aviary, every time she looked upon a sparrow, which formed part of her rich collection, the singular circumstances which had happened in the winter returned to her thoughts. She ever afterwards felt a predilection for sparrows which she could not avoid.

Toward the middle of the summer some family affairs obliged her to return to the metropolis. Shortly after her arrival, as she was breathing the morning air on her terrace, she was delighted again to perceive the faithful sparrow, with the little bag hanging from his neck. On this occasion, however, the bird flew backward and forward, and appeared not to know her. It was in vain that she called, threw grains, and made a thousand caressing signs; nothing could induce him to approach her. Madame Hel-

vetius conceived that it might be the change in her dress which caused the mistake, and hastening into her house, she resumed the dress she had worn in the winter, and again appeared on the terrace. Immediately the bird alighted upon her shoulder, expressing by all his actions his confidence and his joy. Madame Helvetius immediately opened the bag, in which were a note of 600 francs, and a letter expressing their gratitude towards her, and begging to return the sum she had sent them. She was at first tempted to send back the money, but conceiving it would deprive this worthy family of the pleasure they would feel in having acquitted a sacred debt, after caressing the bird many times, she went upon the terrace, and letting him fly, endeavored to watch the direction of his flight, but the high trees in the garden soon hid him from her view.

A few days afterward, as she was walking in the celebrated Jardin des Plantes, her favourite promenade, surrounded by several of her friends, the faithful little emissary, flying from the hand of a little girl, came and perched upon her shoulder. Madame Helvetius, covering him with kisses, expressed her surprise at finding him in a public garden. 'Excuse me, Madam,' said the little girl, running up, 'that is my sister's sparrow.' 'And who is your sister, my dear girl?' eagerly exclaimed Madame Helvetius. 'That young woman whom you see yonder, near my father and mother,' replied the little girl; 'that sparrow belongs to her, and I can assure you she would not part with it for all the world.' On saying these words she pointed to a young woman about 16 or 17 years of age, of very interesting appearance, who, with joy and astonishment, informed her parents that their benefactress was near them.

Madame Helvetius was immediately surrounded by the father and mother and six children, who appeared overwhelmed with gratitude toward her. The eldest daughter, particularly, was so overcome, that it was sometime before she could proffer a word. At length she informed her that she was the daughter of a carpenter, named Valmont; that her father, attacked with a severe illness, was prevented from working and providing for his family, who were soon brought to the greatest poverty and distress, exceeding-

ly augmented by the severity of the winter, and that the sole name of Madame Helvetius had inspired her with the idea of procuring an assistance for her father in so singular a manner; in a word, that it was she who, unknown to her parents, had sent her cherished sparrow. 'But by what means,' asked Madame Helvetius, 'were you able to direct him toward me.' Here the interesting girl, caressing the bird, which was perched on her finger, informed her, that, with the greatest pain, she had been accustomed to deprive him of his food for several days, in order that, attracted like the others by the grain which she distributed, he might accustom himself to approach her; that after trying this anxious experiment for several days, to her great joy she at last perceived him approach her, and the next opportunity, when she saw her on her terrace, she hazarded the first note. 'Here' said the affectionate girl, bursting into tears, 'you are acquainted with what followed; and how shall we ever be able to feel grateful enough to you for having thus saved us from ruin?' It is needless to add, that this worthy family ever retained the friendship of Madame Helvetius, and that the interesting sparrow was always regarded with the greatest fondness and affection, for having thus been the means of communicating to a benevolent lady the wants of a suffering family.—*Prot. Churchman.*

The Island of Lobos.

FEBRUARY 7, 1847.

"The Island of Lobos is a lovely little spot, formed entirely of coral, about two miles in circumference, twelve miles from the Mexican shore, about sixty miles from Tampico, and about 130 from Vera Cruz. It is covered (or was before we landed) with a variety of trees and shrubs, the highest of the former perhaps twenty-five feet high, and these are so thickly covered with vines that one can hardly get through them. There is hardly a tree, or shrub or plant growing here I have ever before seen. Banyan trees spreading over large spaces of ground, their limbs forming props as they pierce into the earth and take root, while the tops, thickly thatched with evergreen vines, form most beautiful arbors. Lemon, lime, fig, palm, cane and a hundred other species of wood are growing, with all the freshness and beauty of the In-

dies. There is plenty of water to be had by digging four to six feet. It is brackish and sweet, but we are getting used to it, and like it nearly as well as ship water. Fish and sea fowl we have in profusion. With these we have a delightful sea air, that fourteen hours out of the twenty-four, makes the place delightfully pleasant.

It will be difficult, I imagine, to convince you, who will read this scrawl beside great coal fires, that we are literally roasting during a portion of the day. The sun is so hot that our faces and arms are blistered if exposed but a few minutes. To-day, by Fahrenheit, in the shade, I scored 92. The universal remark among the Volunteers is, 'If this is winter, what will summer be?'—*Phil. N. American.*

POWER OF ENDURING HEAT.—We find the article which follows below, in one of the newspapers, credited to the 'Philosophy of Magic.' The experiments were very severe.

"The female servant of a baker in Rochefoucault, clothed in flannel, was in the habit of entering her master's oven and remaining long enough to remove all the loaves; and Dr. Brewster informs us that the late Sir Francis Chantry's workmen entered the oven employed for drying the mould, an iron apartment 14 feet long, 12 feet high, and 12 feet broad, the temperature of which with closed doors, was 350 degrees, and the iron floor red hot. They were guarded against the heat of the floor by wooden clogs, which were of course charred on the surface. On one occasion, he adds, Mr. Chantry, accompanied by five or six of his friends, entered the furnace, and after remaining two minutes, they brought out a thermometer which stood at 320 degrees. Some of the party experienced sharp pains in the tips of their ears and in the septum of the nose, while others felt a pain in their eyes. These experiments prove the extraordinary heat, which the living body can bear with impunity, and favor the possibility of persons passing uninjured through the flame, provided the body can be guarded from being scorched, by a non-conducting covering of an incombustible nature."

COURAGE.—It needs more courage to confess a fault than to defend it.

Governing Children.

1. Threaten seldom, and be careful how you threaten; never lie. Some parents tell lies; no wonder their children become liars.

2. Never scold your children, nor tell them to do a thing (no, not the merest trifles) unless you intend them to do it, and do it now.

3. Never give them anything for their crying. Some parents endeavour to pacify their little ones by promises of sweetmeats, and sometimes by telling them of witches, ghosts, hobgoblins, or that bears, or the 'black man,' will catch them! Abominable! Such impressions are often ruinous, lasting as life. Some children have been actually frightened to death!

4. Never allow your children to be wasteful; this evil will follow them to the grave. Bread, pie, cakes, and other fragments of food, partially eaten, are often thrown away! Shameful! Thousands are now perishing for the crumbs that fall from your table. Christ said, when he fed the multitude miraculously, 'Gather up the fragments, that nothing be lost.'

5. Never suffer your children to cry at mere trifles; some acquire this habit very young, and will cry, fret, whine or snivel continually! their little faces actually become wrinkled by crying. Stop this thing, stop it now, stop it forever. Your own happiness and that of those around you demand it.

6. Govern the appetites of your children; let their meals be regular, their diet plain, simple; always keeping in view their age, circumstances, exercise, &c. Self-denial is the first and most important thing: the very essence of well-being. Lay your hand here firmly. Let self-denial be first, last, always.

7. Never permit your children to be tempters to others. We know one family of children perfect tormentors to all around them. Impudent. Most intolerable!—SEL.

THE DARK DAY.—Sixty-four years ago, on the 19th of May last, there was such a remarkable darkness all over New England, that it was called the 'dark day.'

The Legislature of Connecticut was sitting at Hartford, and when the darkness became so great that they could not see, people were filled with alarm, and

many supposed that the day of judgment had come! Some members of the Legislature proposed to adjourn, but a wise man made the following short and sensible speech:

'I am against an adjournment. The day of judgment is either approaching or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause of adjournment; if it is, I wish to be found doing my duty.'—SEL.

Increase of Population.

The Home Missionary thus sums up the growth of the Western States:

Ohio welcomed the first permanent settlers in 1758; now is occupied by 1,732,000 inhabitants.

Michigan, to which the attention of emigrants was turned 12 or 14 years ago, now has 300,000 people.

Indiana, admitted into the Union in 1846, has received a population of more than half a million since 1830, and now numbers more than 900,000 inhabitants.

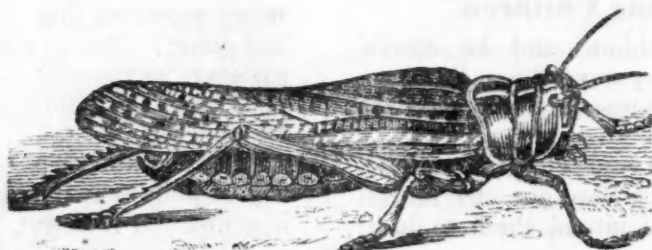
Illinois was organised a separate territory in 1810, and entered the Union as a State in 1818. From that date, its population tripled every ten years till the last census, and in the last five years has arisen from 476,000 to 700,000.

Missouri, which in 1810, had only 20,800 people has now 600,000, having increased fifty per cent. in five years.

Iowa was scarcely heard of at the East ten years ago; it is but 14 years since the only white inhabitants north of the Missouri line, were a few Indian traders. More than one hundred thousand now make that beautiful land their home—sixty thousand of whom have gone in during the last four years.

Wisconsin was organized ten years ago; the marshals have just taken the census, and from present appearances, the population will vary but little from one hundred and fifty thousand, being an increase of one hundred thousand in five years. One portion of the territory, 33 miles by 30, which ten years ago was an unbroken wilderness, now numbers thirty thousand inhabitants, and the emigration to that portion of the west is greater than ever.

The seven new States and Territories above enumerated—to say nothing of the other western and south-western States and Texas—have increased since the last adjustment of the ratio, more than a million and a half.



THE EASTERN LOCUST, OR GRASSHOPPER.

In our earliest years, among the first objects which attract our attention when we begin to wander among the flowery fields, the gay and lively grasshopper is one of the most conspicuous and pleasing. It is not without reason that we feel the curious enquiry rising on our lips: whence does it come, how does it move, on what does it feed, and what is the end of its happy but short career? These questions have been thought worthy of the attention and study of men of learning, and have not all been found to be easily answered.

A new interest is soon added to this insect by the allusions we find made in the Bible. In our country, where this sacred volume is happily a household book, we enjoy the great advantage of having the works of God recommended to our serious regard, by the example and the instructions of their Maker. How many things in inanimate, as well in animate nature, are held up before our eyes with either a direct or an indirect injunction to contemplate them for some important purpose. We are told to 'consider the lilies,' to 'go to the ant,' &c. But there are other ways in which even insects are made to possess interest in the eyes of the reader of the Scriptures: for they are described as instruments in the hands of God for the accomplishment of some of his purposes with men. In this way the species depicted above is made particularly conspicuous; and we early learn of the surprising ravages which it still commits in certain parts of the world.

The varieties of the grasshopper, included under the Latin name *Cicadæ*, live on leaves and other tender vegetable substances, and are provided with mouths for eating them with ease and in considerable quantities. A single one requires a large supply of food in comparison with its size; and, as myriads of them are often collected at once within a small space, whatever they fall upon rapidly

disappears. A great difference exists in this respect, in different varieties; and those which inhabit our country are among the more harmless, but sometimes prove ruinous to particular crops where they most abound. Happily seasons seldom occur in which such things happen, and we do not often hear of large tracts of country suffering seriously at the same time. But the case is quite different in some of the warm regions of the old continent and even of South America.

The following abridged notice of the devastations of this formidable insect, we copy from a late anonymous writer:

"The history of the locust is indeed a series of the greatest calamities which human nature has suffered. Kingdoms have been depopulated. Their devastations have entered into the history of nations, and their effigies have been perpetuated in coins, like those of other conquerors of the earth.

"We are the army of the Great God, and we lay ninety-and-nine eggs; were the hundredth put forth, the world would be ours"—such is the speech the Arabs put into the mouth of the locust.

"Aldovandus states, on the authority of Cruntz, that Tamerlane's army being infested by locusts, that chief looked on it as a warning from God, and desisted from his designs on Jerusalem.

"The locust feeds on all green things, though the food is not the same with each kind.

"Pliny has given us many tales of the ferocity of these insects, and Aldrovandus has copied them.

"A German author has made a rough estimate of a swarm, which in the year 1693 covered four square miles of ground: 92 billions.

"No wonder then that the swarms which visited the Islands of Formosa and Tayowan, in 1645, caused by their numbers such a famine, that 8,000 men died of hunger.



THE SHEEP.

The fine animal, of which this is a portrait, was a specimen of the Rambouillet breed, one of the best foreign races of sheep. It was imported from France, by Mr. Collins, and excited much admiration, but unhappily it survived but a short time. We have placed it at the head of one of our pages, as an appropriate introduction to the following instructive remarks on Spanish and French Sheep, written by an American gentleman lately returned from a tour in Europe, made for the purpose of collecting information on this subject. It appeared in a late number of the American Agriculturist, a work which, we repeat, is conducted with great ability.

Spanish Sheep.—"I found it to be the prevailing impression that the best race of sheep were those belonging to the Geronimo Monks, which, on the suppression of the monasteries, were scattered over the kingdom, and chiefly fell into the hands of the more wealthy grandees. I was told, however, that none of the descendants of this superior flock are now to be found pure. The flocks of the Duke del Infantado and Don Fajoiga, are among the largest in Spain, embracing upwards of 200,000 sheep. Those of the latter rank much higher, in choice breeding in the estimation of Spaniards, than the former, though he very frankly admitted that pure bred Paulars were not to be

found in his flock, nor, in his opinion, did they exist at the present day in Spain. This assertion I took without any qualification, as coming from one who is entitled to every consideration, and in sight not only of his being one of the most enterprising agriculturists of the day, but of his prominent position as President of the corporation instituted for the security and preservation of the sheep interest.

The principal province for the pasturage of 'transhumantes,' or wandering sheep, during the winter season, is, 'Estremadura.' To this interesting portion of the country I directed my steps, deviating from the ordinary track of travelers, for the purpose of making a personal inspection of some of the most celebrated flocks. My interest was first excited by the reports which reached me, of the superior reputation of the flock of Don Jose Alvarez, near Trujillo; and accordingly I availed myself of the earliest opportunity to see them. This person was the administrator of the Prince of Peace, and had the exclusive management of his flock. On the confiscation of his property, a portion of his sheep fell into his (Alvarez's) hands. He represented them to me as being the only pure Paulars now to be found in Spain. These sheep were very uneven, and did not impress me favorably. The quality of wool is quite good, and would command about

40 cents with us at present. I should think that selected bucks would yield 8 lbs. per head. The price asked for these sheep was \$12 each. The English importation, in 1814, was made from this flock. After this I visited a number of other flocks, but they were so inferior to those last seen, that any further account of them is superfluous.

I heard of a few isolated individual sheep in other provinces, as being very large, strong and fine. But if these could be had at all, it would be at very high prices.

I cannot omit in my notes on the Spanish sheep, to make some allusion to the dogs which I saw in charge of them. These noble animals are a very necessary appendage in this country, for the protection of the flocks against the ravages of wolves, which infest in large numbers almost every portion of Spain. They resemble the mastiff more than any other race of dogs with which I am familiar, exceeding the huge and far-famed St. Bernard in size, and blending unusual ferocity, with all the docility and sagacity which characterise that breed. The price of these dogs varies from \$30 to \$50. They are mostly a brown or tawny color; have fine muzzles, large heads and jowls; ears standing erect from the head nearly its whole length, but dropping over at the end; full in throat and neck; stout and muscular in the whole body; about two feet six to two feet nine inches high; hair long and wavy, and the legs and tail feathered. They are the largest dogs I have ever seen. One is more than a match for any wolf—those of Spain being large, savage, and courageous—and two will kill one directly. They would prove of great value for certain portions of America, and should be imported for the purpose of guarding our flocks.

French Sheep.—As regards the sheep of France, which came next in order under my observation, I feel enabled to speak with more confidence, having more time at my disposal when I visited them, and an opportunity of subjecting them to a more minute examination. The Rambouillets struck me as being vastly superior to any I had seen in Spain. They are of great size, and are very fine and even in their fleeces. A prominent defect in the flock, is rather too great a length of leg. Their bucks shear on an

average from 12 to 16 lbs. per head, and occasionally go as high as 17 or 18 lbs.; the ewes average from 8 to 10 lbs. The wool, though unwashed, is quite neat and free from tag-locks. The history and management of this flock is so well known, and the fine specimens from it recently brought into this country, have rendered their superior qualities so familiar, as to supersede the necessity of any further notice of them. A public sale takes place every year in May. They are in great demand at present and bring high prices.

I will now direct your attention to another flock. The flock of V. Gilbert, who resides in the department of Oise and Seine, par Maule, some thirty miles from Paris; was commenced by the father of M. Gilbert, about 40 years ago, and has been improved by judicious selections and occasional drafts from the Rambouillets and other flocks of equal celebrity. The great points of excellence, so peculiar to his flock, consist in their unsurpassed beauty and symmetry of form, with large size, and wonderful production of wool. I saw bucks here which produced the past year 18lbs. of wool, and of a very fair quality. Their age was two years old past. I selected, with the intention of importation, a yearling buck, which I considered the finest specimen of the sheep kind I had ever seen. This animal had taken the first premium the past year at the great Sheep Fair of France, at St. Germaine. He was of large size, and unequalled in form, being then seventeen months old, and weighing 215 French pounds (about 230 lbs. English.) His fleece weighed 16 lbs. in the grease, and was of a quality that I feel assured, would command in this country 40 cents per lb. at this present moment, or perhaps more, clean washed. The price of this animal may be regarded as exorbitantly high—\$400; but when it is considered that he was much the best animal produced by this gentleman during the last ten years, and doubtless possessing qualities so much superior to most of his race in France, the terms cannot be regarded as unreasonable."

The Editor of the *Agriculturist* adds: "Two of our friends, after viewing the French and Saxon Sheep, are now in Spain looking over the flocks there. They are excellent judges, and will undoubtedly import a few choice animals."

Domestic Manners of the Chinese.*(From Mr. Williams' Lecture.)*

Mr. Williams introduced his subject by quoting the language of a Chinese essayist, who congratulated himself that he was born in China, and not in distant barbarous parts of the earth, where the people lived in holes and caves, and were but little better than the beasts; while in his favored land he was provided with a commodious habitation, and with all the comforts of civilized life.

Houses of the Chinese.—Architecture as a science has never been studied in China. There is a remarkable uniformity in all their buildings, which in form still retain a marked resemblance to the tent. The houses are generally built of bricks, which are of a blue color, and about the same size as ours; and the roofs are covered with red tiles. Houses with mud walls are also very common; these are made of a mixture of mud, sand, and clay, and some oil, and are very durable. The poorest of the people are often obliged to satisfy themselves with houses constructed of mats.

The houses are generally of a dun color or light blue, and seldom exceed one story; indeed what we would call a two story house is a thing not known in China. They present to the street a blank wall, with two gates, the principal of which is opened only on great occasions. The roofs project considerably beyond the wall, sufficiently so to shelter a person standing at the door.

A lantern, on which is the owner's name, hangs on the outside of the house, and serves not only to tell who lives in the house, but also to indicate the owner's style of living.

Interior of the Houses.—On the left hand side of the entrance is a niche containing an image dedicated to the God of the threshold; and at the end of the hall an altar, at the head of which is a painting or sometimes an idol, and before it an incense pot.

The furniture of the rich is very expensive and showy, but not beautiful. In the principal rooms many handsome lanterns are suspended; and when the furniture and lanterns are new, the rooms present a very gay appearance.

The Chinese make their doors of various odd shapes, from a superstitious notion that evil spirits cannot as easily pass through such doors as they could

through rectangular ones. For a similar reason they avoid making any door in their houses opposite another door.

In the northern parts of the country the houses are mostly warmed with furnaces; and near Pekin they are built partly under ground as a protection from the cold.

Gardens.—Great attention is paid by the Chinese to gardening, in which they exhibit considerable skill. Mr. Williams here gave a description of a beautiful garden belonging to a rich Chinese, who died some time since; noticing particularly an ingenious contrivance to increase its apparent dimensions; at short distances along the winding paths strange figures made of shells, and bearing some resemblance to birds or other animals, were placed, which naturally attracted the attention of the visitor, who would stop to examine them, and see what they were designed to represent; and these detentions and delays served to make the walk appear much longer than it really was. The Emperor's garden is very extensive, being five or six miles in circuit: it may be said to be an epitome of nature, being adorned with artificial mountains, lakes, &c. One of the Hong merchants built in his garden a house entirely of glass; no one, said Mr. W., could enter it without feeling the force of the common proverb, about those who live in glass houses. (See Vol. I. page 817.)

The Pagodas are the most prominent specimens of Chinese architecture, and are exceptions to the rule of building only one story. The number of stories is always odd, usually nine or eleven—and their height is about two hundred feet. Their object is partly religious, and partly superstitious. The people believe that they have an influence on the wind, and thus aid in procuring good crops. There are probably about two hundred in the whole empire, but none have been erected within the past two centuries. The most elegant is the celebrated Porcelain Tower, which was built about three hundred years ago. It consists of 9 stories, is two hundred and twelve feet high, and contains two hundred and two images of Budhu.

Appearance of the Town and Streets.—The general appearance of Chinese towns from a distance is very ordinary, presenting little more than a series of red tiled roofs. The Chinese do not like to build

their houses in straight rows as we do; they think it unlucky, and therefore build them irregularly, one in and one out, &c.

The streets of shops are much more lively than those which contain only dwelling houses. The rows of long red sign-boards are the gayest objects in a Chinese street. The shops have no glass windows, nor do the Chinese make any display of goods in their windows. The counters project about four feet into the streets, so that people, if they choose, can do their shopping without entering the store. In the outer end of every counter is a niche dedicated to the god of wealth; and to this god the boy who opens the shop offers incense every morning, that they may have a profitable trade during the day.

The streets are very narrow, and without sidewalks, which indeed are not needed, as there are no carriages. The average width of the streets in Nankin is ten feet, in Canton seven feet. The houses are never numbered; but each street is divided at intervals by gates, each of which gives its name to a section of the street; so that one continuous street may have ten or a dozen different names.

In every street at short distances are small towers for watchmen, who give alarms of fire, and call the hours during the night. In some streets are seen what travellers have always called triumphal arches; but without any reason, as they have no connection with any triumph, and are not in appearance like an arch: they have mostly been erected in honor of some individual.

Living on the Water.—It is estimated that in the river opposite Canton not less than 250,000 people live on the water. Their habitations are a kind of boats or floating houses, which are moored in rows like streets. The advantages of this plan are, that there is no expense for ground, and the boats are built cheaper than houses, and not so exposed to the depredation of thieves. Each of these boats usually contains three rooms. In the northern part of the country, where the boats would be injured by the ice, this practice is not very common.

Beggars, who are very numerous, are under the management of the police, who divide the city into districts, and apportion to each a certain number of the mendicants, who are allowed to beg at every

house and shop within their district, but not to exercise their vocation beyond its limits. If beggars come to a shop when a customer is in, the keeper of the shop will generally give them at once a small coin; but if he be not engaged he will let the beggar stay and cry for alms a long time before he gives, knowing that the longer he detains him the longer it will be before he gets round to his shop again.

Strange beggars, that is, such as do not belong to the town, are not included in this apportionment, and may not beg in the streets. These will sit on the steps of the temples, and depend on the casual charities of visitors. Scenes of the most appalling destitution and wretchedness are sometimes witnessed at these places, such as are unknown in a Christian land.

The Dress of the Chinese is usually of silk or cotton, and presents a gay and pleasing appearance. Furs are much worn and highly prized, being sometimes handed down in a family from generation to generation. Officers of government commonly wear a blue dress: members of the imperial family, yellow. No woolen clothes are worn. In cold weather they keep themselves warm by increasing the number of their garments; and men may sometimes be seen with ten or twelve jackets on at once.

Their shoes are made of silk or cotton, no leather being used except a small piece in the sole; and the soles are made very thick, at least an inch, to protect the feet from the dampness of the floors.

The front of the head of the men is entirely shaven; and the hair on the back part is plaited into a kind of tail or queue. This custom was forced upon the people of China by their Tartar conquerors, and though they are now generally well pleased with it, it was at first so abhorrent to them that some preferred to lose their heads rather than their hair; and the inhabitants of one district still so far show their dislike as to wear a handkerchief round their heads to hide their baldness. The practice of wearing flowers in the hair prevails very generally among the women.

Some men allow their nails to grow very long, but it is not a common practice. It is a mark of dandyism, and designed to indicate that the wearer does not work. The largest nails Mr. Wil-

liams ever saw were those of a carpenter; they were nine inches long, and showed that the carpenter did not labor himself, but employed men to do his work.

Small feet of Chinese Women.—The practice of compressing the feet of Chinese females is one of which all have heard. It is not confined to the rich, as some have supposed; there are none so poor as not to wish to be fashionable. Of fifteen hundred women who had been in the hospital at Chusan, there was not one but had small feet. The origin of this custom is not known; it has been said that it was at first a compliment to an empress who had a club foot; while some wags have suggested that it was introduced by the men to keep their wives from gadding. It does not, however, disable the women from walking so much as might be supposed. A woman with compressed feet has been known to walk six or seven miles to the hospital, and the same distance back, notwithstanding the roughness of the roads. They walk very ungracefully, with an awkward, swinging gait, being in fact obliged to walk on their heels; but they manage to get along nearly as fast as other persons.

These small feet are called by the Chinese 'golden lilies,' and are about three and a half inches in length. The compression is effected by turning some of the toes above and some under the foot, and then keeping it tightly bandaged. When commenced in infancy, as it commonly is, the process does not cause extreme pain; but the case is different when it has been delayed to a later period; no disease or mortification, however, it is said, was ever known to ensue from the operation.

The Portuguese in Canton employ a number of the native women as servants in their families, and as their situations are very desirable, many of the poorer Chinese about there allow the feet of their daughters to attain their natural size, that they may not be disqualified for them. The people who live on the water are also exceptions to the ordinary practice.

The food of the Chinese is abundant, wholesome, and nutritious. They eat much more vegetable food than we do; rice being the chief article. Wheat is ground and boiled; and they sometimes make wheat flour into muffins and puddings, but never make bread. They have most of the fruits and vegetables that we

have, and several other varieties. They have grapes, but make no wine. Tea, of course, they use largely, but coffee is not known even by name. On the coast fish are used to a greater extent than in any other country; indeed, they eat almost everything that lives in the water except the porpoise. Kittens and puppies are also eaten; but these animals when raised for the table are fed entirely on rice. The Chinese refrain from all the products of the dairy, using neither milk, butter, nor cheese; and when foreigners speak to them about the strange things they eat, as cats and dogs, &c., they think it a triumphant reply to say, but you eat cheese! Tobacco is used by all, men, women, and children; but they never chew it.

Marriage Customs.—The betrothal of children is arranged entirely by their parents; but when the parties are of age an agent is employed. After betrothal it is considered improper for a lady to go abroad until her marriage. The day before her marriage the bride has a crying turn; she then takes leave of her ancestors, whom she then worships for the last time: henceforth she is dead to them. The bridal dress is the most splendid they can procure, being often hired for the occasion. The bride is carried to her future home in a sedan, but no member of her own family attends her. As the procession advances along the streets, all persons are required to move out of the way while it passes. As soon as they reach the house, the matchmaker goes in search of the bridegroom and brings him out; he then opens the door of the sedan, and beholds his wife for the first time.

The wife on her marriage, is considered to be dead to her father's house; and some time after, perhaps about three months, she will revisit her former home and renew her acquaintance with the family, as though she had been an entire stranger.

From this blind method of contracting marriage, as might be expected, most bitter disappointments often ensue, and are sometimes attended with deplorable results. Ladies who have been well brought up, and perhaps received a good education, on finding themselves linked for life with men of hard and unsuitable character, have been driven by despair to suicide.—*Christian Advocate.*

MR. DAVISON'S INVENTION FOR CUR- ING PROVISIONS.

Mr. Davison has his packing house in Leroy street in this city. He was long connected with the manufacture of salt; and, having resided at one period in South America (a country with greater capacities for the production of the hog and the ox than any other), he had his attention very naturally turned to the subject of the preservation of meats. The invention now put into perfect operation by him is the result of his observations in his earlier pursuit, and much thought and investigation. Having had the benefit of a good education, together with the scientific advice of Dr. Lardner, whom he consulted upon his arrival in this country, in reference to this subject, he perfected the invention by reducing it to reality and successful operation.

The whole apparatus is perfectly simple. It consists of a large cylinder made 'air tight.' It has a mouth-piece through which the meat is put into the cylinder. On this mouth-piece is fitted a lid, with its surface so adapted to the mouth-piece that no air can pass. Strong screws bind it close to the mouth-piece. On the lid are two air vents with screws to open and close them. This cylinder, mouth-piece, and lid, are made of the best of iron, with a thickness proportional to their size.

There is also a large vat to hold brine. This is made of wood, and is elevated above the cylinder, and connected with it by a pipe. Through the pipe the brine passes from the vat to the cylinder. There is a lifting pump attached to the cylinder. By it the brine is pumped from the cylinder into the vat.

The meat, being first cut, is placed in the cylinder, and the brine is admitted. When the cylinder is filled with the brine, the lid is closed down on the mouth-piece and screwed fast. The pump is then put into action and the brine is carried back to the vat. When the brine is all removed from the cylinder, the meat is in a vacuum: this is obvious, for the brine had of course expelled the air; the cylinder and closed lid, being air-tight, did not permit the air to return when the brine was withdrawn. The meat, being in a vacuum, parts with all the blood, air, and gases which may be contained within it—these escape into the vacuum of the cylinder. The brine is now again introduced; and,

when the meat is covered, the air-vents in the lid are opened, and the brine drives out all the air and gases which had escaped from the meat. When the cylinder is full of brine, the air-vents are closed, and the brine is pumped into the vat, and the meats are again in vacuum. Again blood, air, and gases escape into the vacuum. The brine is again introduced, and the meat covered; the air-vents are then opened and the air and gases escape from the cylinder, and the cylinder is filled with brine. The brine is withdrawn and returned again and again, until the operation is completed. The interval of withdrawing and returning is short at first; but when the blood, air, and gases are expelled from the meat, the brine is allowed to remain on the meat for some hours, say four to eight. After the blood, air, and gases are expelled, and the meat has remained in the brine for six or eight hours, it is cured. The whole process will require about twelve hours.

The principle on which the method acts is that of a pressure upon the meat in a vacuum. In its ordinary condition the meat is filled with blood, air, and gases; when immersed in brine, in the ordinary process, these, by their resisting power, prevent the brine from entering the meat; the blood has an affinity with the brine, and leaves the meat to unite with it. The pressure of the water and its specific gravity being greater than that of the air and gases, the air and gases rise to the surface and escape, and the brine takes their place. To do this, however, takes time, and about six weeks are found necessary to accomplish it. When, however, the meat is in a vacuum, the blood, air, and gases 'escape at once;' being escaped, the brine exerts its pressure, and the meat is charged at once. This pressure in the ordinary method of curing is nothing more than that which arises from the weight and pressure of the quantity of brine necessary to cover the meat. In the cylinder, the meat, when the blood, air, and gases have been separated from it in the vacuum, can be subjected to an illimitable amount of pressure. To do this, nothing more is necessary than the elevation of the vat. Connected as is the vat by a pipe to the cylinder, the pressure is in proportion to the elevation of the vat. By means of the vacuum the meat is freed from all the

means of resistance to the entrance of the brine; and the pressure of the brine may be carried to any extent that the meat will bear without collapsing. When in vacuum it is swollen, its fibre distended and pores open, and it readily admits the brine even at the simple pressure of the mere quantity of brine which the cylinder will hold. In this matter, experience has taught that the pressure of a single atmosphere is the most effective; a greater one tends to close the pores of the vacated meat, and a triple atmospheric pressure completely closes them, to the exclusion of the brine. The whole secret of the action of this method is, that the vacuum fits the meat at once to admit the brine; and the pressure, if not too great, at once forces the brine into the vacated pores, and this done, the meat is cured. By the use of the vacuum, the natural process is shortened from weeks to hours, and the meat is cured 'at least as perfectly;' indeed far more perfectly.

Such is Mr. Davison's process. He has patented it, and deserves, for his ingenuity scientifically applied, to reap a rich harvest.

The advantage of a rapid curing of meat in a perfect manner, is obvious to every one. But there are numerous advantages beside. Let me enumerate them.

All meats salted and cured in the ordinary method, require two packings to pass inspection, and for family use. When the meat is cured, which will be at the end of six weeks or two months, the brine is bloody and foul. In the large packing and inspection establishments, the meat is re-packed, and the first brine is thrown away. With the vacuum process, the meat when cured, at the end of twelve hours, is free from blood, and ready to receive its final packing, fit to pass inspection, or keeping for family use. In the process of curing, pork increases in weight, ten to eleven per cent. In the ordinary process, two months are necessary to gain this; and of course, the interest, storing, and insurance, for that period, are lost to somebody; in the vacuum process the meat is cured in twelve hours and the ten per cent gain is obtained at once, and there is no loss of time, interest, storage, or insurance. In the ordinary method, the packer cannot sell profitably until after two packings

and two months of time; in the vacuum process he may sell in one day, reaping the gain of the increase.

The longer the meat is in curing, the more the natural juices are extracted by the brine. Hence, when the meat is cured equally well as to its being saved, its quality will be better in the short process, for its juices are not lost in the brine.

These advantages apply to all seasons of the year, and by the vacuum process there is a great gain, even in the winter, when meat can be cured by the ordinary process. But there is yet another advantage, and it is this:—

Meat, by the vacuum process, may be cured in summer as well and as perfectly and safely as in winter: once in the cylinder, it is safe. The cylinder will make it so at once, under any circumstances; but, if necessary, the cylinder may be enclosed in a wooden box (a non-conductor), and the space between case and cylinder filled with powdered charcoal. This at once makes a refrigerator, and with the brine, a temperature approaching freezing point may be maintained during the whole time of curing.

In the West, less capital for the purchase of meat will be necessary if the vacuum process be adopted: for time, interest, storage and insurance will be saved. But to the West, it will give yet another advantage; it will enable them to commence packing earlier. Not unusual is it for them at Cincinnati and St. Louis, to be closed up in December with ice, and a stop put to shipment. If packing can commence in October, the loss of cold weather in feeding and the staying power of ice will be obviated. A hog or a beeve is fatted more easily in warm than in cold weather. But neither can be killed and cured in warm weather by the ordinary process; by the vacuum process they may. To pack in the ordinary way you must feed longer, and that even with a scarcity of food, to get to the cold weather, that you may safely cure; and by no means can you meet a present demand or a rising market. By the vacuum process, you obviate long feeding, warm weather (and that may occur even at mid-winter to spoil meat cured in the ordinary mode), and you may meet a present demand or a rising market, without loss of interest, storage, or insurance.—*American Agriculturist.*

(To be Concluded.)

POETRY.

The Royal Pedigree.

BY JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

Let those who will, claim gentle birth,
And take their pride in Norman blood :
The purest ancestry on earth
Must find its spring in common mud ;
And all, though noble now or base,
From the same level took their rise,
And side by side, in loving grace,
Leaped, crystal clear, from paradise.

Among our sires no high-born chief
Freckled his hand with peasant gore,
No spurred and coronetted thief
Set his mailed feet upon the floor ;
No ! we are come of nobler line,
With larger heart within the breast,
Large hearts by suffering made divine—
We draw our lineage from the Oppressed.

Not from the sceptered brutes who reigned,
But from the humble souls who bore,
And so a God-like patience gained,
Which, suffering much, could suffer more—
Which learned forgiveness, and the grace
That cometh of a bended knee—
From martyrs such as those we trace
Our Royal genealogy.

There's not a great soul gone before,
That is not numbered in our clan,
Who, when the world took side with power,
Stood boldly on the side of man ;
All hero-spirits, plain and grand,
Who for the Ages ope the door,
All Labor's dusty monarchs stand
Among the children of the poor.

Let others boast of ancestors,
Who handed down some idle right,
To stand beside their tyrant's horse,
Or tie his spurs before the fight ;
We, too, have our ancestral claim
Of marching even in the van,
Of giving ourselves to steel and flame,
Where aught's to be achieved for man.

And is not this a family
Worth keeping up from age to age ?
Was ever such an ancestry
Gold-blazoned on the herald's page ?
In dear New England let us still
Maintain our race and title pure,
Women, and men of patriot will
The monarchs who shall age ENDURE.

We have but one moment at once—
let us improve it.—The moment will
soon come when this life will cease—
may we so live as to meet it without regret.

ENIGMA.—No. 40.

I am composed of 17 letters.

My 1, 15, 6, 8, 8, 16, is a river in Missouri.
My 2, 10, 4, 16, 16, 7, is a town in Sumatra.

My 3, 15, 2, 6, 17, 16, 8, 17, is a strait
My 4, 16, 10, 15, 6, is a mountain in Iceland.

My 5, 2, 7, 5, 16, 9, is a river in Asia.
My 6, 8, 11, 16, 7, 17, is a town in Ohio.
My 7, 2, 12, 7, is a town in British America.

My 8, 14, 16, 8, 16, is a river in South America,

My 9, 8, 6, 8, 16, 7, is an island in the Atlantic.

My 10, 2, 8, is a lake in British America.
My 11, 16, 15, 16, 7, 6, is a bay on the coast of Africa.

My 12, 10, 2, is a town in Peru.
My 13, 16, 15, 15, 11, is a town in Arabia,
My 14, 17, 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, is a town in Asia.
My 15, 12, 16, 5, 16, is a town in Austria.
My 16, 2, 17, 8, is a cape in New Zealand.
My 17, 4, 14, 16, 7, 7, 16, 9, is a river in Missouri.

My whole is the name of a distinguished Indian warrior. MARTIN F. TUTTILER.
Seven Islands, Va.

French Proverbs, Bon mots, &c.—

5. Avec un style limpide, il n'est pas de pensée si profonde dont on ne puisse voir le fond.

6. Quand les premiers emplois d'une république sont occupés par les nullités de toute espèce, les hommes de talent qui veulent parvenir doivent simuler la niaiserie.

Translation of French Proverbs, &c., page 272.—3. Brooks babble much, because they want depth : great rivers are silent.

4. The enlightened man pities too much to despise or hate much.

Solution of Conundrums, page 272.—No. 1. The Cashier.

No. 2. Because she is catty-cornered.

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